



State of Washington  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N, Olympia WA 98501-1091, (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207  
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia WA

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To Interested Parties:

The enclosed packet includes: WAC descriptions of fishing areas in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor, two summary sheets of regulations governing the 2008 Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor commercial fishing seasons (Tables 1 and 2), copies of the WAC regulations pertaining to the fall commercial fisheries in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor, maps with GPS of Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor and a summary sheet for Quick Reporting.

Final regulations have been adopted and will be published under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) prior to the 2008 Fall Commercial Salmon management period. Items of special note are identified below.

**Willapa Bay Fall Fishery** – The fall commercial gillnet season is scheduled to begin at 6pm September 15, 2008. The maximum mesh size allowed during September through October 5<sup>th</sup> is 6-inches. Nets must hang straight from the top to bottom and strings may only be used to secure breakaway panels. Beginning 6pm September 21<sup>st</sup> the eastern deadline restriction at marker 40 in Area 2H will be removed but reinstated November 6 – 14<sup>th</sup>. For openings beginning October 7 – 14<sup>th</sup> the maximum mesh size is 6 ½ inches. For any openings beginning November 6 – 14<sup>th</sup> use 9-inch minimum mesh except 6pm November 10<sup>th</sup> through 6pm November 14<sup>th</sup> when either the 9-inch minimum mesh may be used or 6-inch maximum mesh is allowed. When using 6-inch maximum mesh nets must hang straight from the top to bottom and strings may only be used to secure breakaway panels. For openings beginning 6pm November 14<sup>th</sup> through Noon November 30<sup>th</sup> the minimum mesh size is 9-inches.

**Grays Harbor Fall Fishery** – In Areas 2A, 2C, and 2D ALL non-legal sturgeon and steelhead must be released. The maximum mesh size allowed is 6-inches; no more than 55 meshes deep. Soak time is limited to 45 minutes.

There are two 24 hour fishing days schedule in Area 2C: 6pm October 11<sup>th</sup> through 6pm October 12<sup>th</sup> and 6pm October 15<sup>th</sup> through 6pm October 16<sup>th</sup>. Live boxes are not required.

In Areas 2A/2D there are three-12 hour daylight only fishing days scheduled: October 8, 9, and 10 from 7am to 7pm each day. **In Areas 2A/2D Notice of Intent prior to 10am October 6<sup>th</sup> and live boxes are required. Release all Chinook.**

The NOAA Fisheries listed the southern population of green sturgeon as threatened under the Endangered Species Act effective July 6, 2006. Most of the green sturgeon taken in Washington fisheries are from the southern population. Therefore, **the retention of green sturgeon is prohibited to protect this federally listed stock.**

Wholesale dealers and fishers retailing their fish should note that “Quick Reporting” of catches is **required** for all salmon and sturgeon landed, this includes all “take home”. All purchases are required to be reported to WDFW by 10:00 A.M. of the day following the commercial landing. **The quick reporting requirement does not preclude the obligation of buyers to report catches on fish tickets.**

Reports can be made by:

- fax (360) 664-0689
- telephone 1-866-791-1280
- email to [harborfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:harborfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov)

The quick reporting summary must include: the dealer’s name, purchasing location, date of purchase, list of fish ticket numbers used on the purchasing date (including alpha letter preceding the fish ticket number), commercial fishing gear type, catch area, species, number and total weight of fish. Please note that a copy of the “Statewide Quick Reporting Summary Sheet” has been included for your convenience or you can go to our website and download a copy at: [http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/commercial/quickreport\\_form.xls](http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/commercial/quickreport_form.xls)

These regulations are subject to change based on in-season information. You are advised to call the Department of Fish and Wildlife hotline at (360) 902-2500 or (360) 249-4628 before going fishing to verify fishery schedules and regulations. For additional information or questions, please contact Barbara McClellan at (360) 249-4628.

### **Atlantic Salmon**

Wholesale dealers and fishers are asked to contact the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife should Atlantic salmon be taken during any fishery in Washington waters. Please notify the appropriate WDFW staff member of when and where the fish was encountered or contact Fish Program in Olympia at (360) 902-2700.